

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3130

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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MADRID ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

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TAGS: PFOR, PO, RO

SUBJ: COSTA GOMES' VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF: LISBON 3317

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO ROMANIA IS BEING PORTRAYED AS MAJOR PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS, DEMONSTRATING STRONG TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO PEOPLES, USEFULNESS OF AGREEMENTS SIGNED, AND IMPORTANCE OF LUSO-ROMANIAN COOPERATION IN TERMS OF LESSENING TENSIONS IN EUROPE. PRESIDENT POINTED TO ROMANIAN LESSON (HARD WORK AND FIRM AUTHORITY) AS ONE FROM WHICH PORTUGUESE SHOULD LEARN FROM. ATMOSPHERICS ASIDE, HOWEVER, TRIP APPEARS TO HAVE PRODUCED FEW CONCRETE RESULTS. TO CONTRARY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PORTUGUESE DELEGATION REPORTEDLY FOUND ROMANIA DISAPPOINTING

MODEL, ONE WHICH PORTUGAL SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. PORTUGUESE PRESS AND RADIO/TELEVISION PROVIDED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' JUNE 13-16 VISIT TO ROMANIA, HIGHLIGHTING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ABOUT WARMTH OF GREETING HE RECEIVED AND TIES OF FRIENDSHIP UNITING TWO SIMILAR (LATIN) PEOPLES.

2. VISIT'S PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND PRESS WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES BELONGING TO TWO OPPOSING MILITARY BLOCS. THIS TIE "CAN BE THE BEGINNING FOR A NEW EUROPEAN POLICY OF DETENTE AND THE ELIMINATION OF BLOCS," ACCORDING TO COSTA GOMES.

3. COSTA GOMES ALSO EMPHASIZED HIS CONCORDANCE WITH CEAUSESCU ON NEED TO CREATE NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN EUROPE. WHILE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION DOES NOT SPEAK SPECIFICALLY OF EUROPE; ARTICLE 7 DOES SAY TWO NATIONS WILL STRIVE FOR "CREATION OF NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD." SAME TREATY ARTICLE SETS NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES INTO CONTEXT OF EFFORTS TO FURTHER NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT UNDER EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL.)

4. SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS SIGNED COVER FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION; LONG TERM TRADE; AND LONG TERM ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

5. FOR THOSE WHO STILL HAVE NOT GOTTEN THE MESSAGE, COSTA GOMES REFERRED TO "ROMANIAN LESSON" WHICH HE COMMENDED TO PORTUGUESE AND OTHER EUROPEAN PEOPLES: ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS DERIVES FROM THREE BASIC FACTORS -- ECONOMIC-SOCIAL PLANNING, FIRM AND RESPECTED (STATE) AUTHORITY, AND HARD WORK. IN SUM, "ONLY WORK CAN PRODUCE WELL-BEING AND PROGRESS."

6. PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ACCEPTED COSTA GOMES' INVITATION TO VISIT PORTUGAL, THE SPECIFIC DATE TO BE ESTABLISHED AT LATER TIME.

7. COMMENT: COSTA GOMES' VISIT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE PRODUCED MUCH IN CONCRETE TERMS. TO CONTRARY, WE UNDERSTAND FROM PORTU- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GUESE PRESS SOURCES WHO ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT THAT PORTUGUESE WERE DISENCHANTED WITH SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION THEY FOUND IN ROMANIA. EVEN LEFT WING CORRESPONDENT REMARKED "WE CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN IN PORTUGAL." MEMBER OF PRESIDENT'S PARTY TOLD FORMER US ATTACHE HERE THAT PORTUGUESE FOUND ROMANIA A DIS- APPOINTING SOCIALIST MODEL.

8. ON OTHER HAND, ATMOSPHERICALLY VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL. ROMANIAN

EMBASSY OFFICIAL COMMENTED TO EMBOFF ON GOR'S SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF VISIT. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT WARMTH OF GREETING EXTENDED COSTA GOMES EXCEEDED ALL PREVIOUS BUCHAREST DISPLAYS. IT ALSO APPEARS CERTAIN THAT TWO PARTIES SAW EYE-TO-EYE ON SUBJECT OF "NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE," A PHRASE MUCH IN VOGUE IN LISBON THESE DAYS. JOINT COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED LANGUAGE EMPHASIZING RESPECT FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, RESPECT FOR PEOPLES' RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL POLICIES WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, ETC. IN THIS, OF COURSE, LIES GREAT ATTRACTION ROMANIA HOLDS FOR LEFTISTS IN ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. THEY SEE IN ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENCE WITHIN WARSAW PACT A POSITION WHICH, THEY BELIEVE, PORTUGAL CAN AND SHOULD DUPLICATE WITHIN NATO.

9. WHILE NO MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE EMERGED FROM TRIP, FURTHER MILITARY VISITS ALREADY HAVE. ROMANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY GEN. IAN COMAN ARRIVED IN LISBON JUNE 17, A FOLLOW-UP TO BUCHAREST VISIT LAST JANUARY OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF CARLOS FABIAO.
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